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EXAMINER	
SING, SIMON P	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2645	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/099,874	Applicant(s) GREEN ET AL.	
	Examiner Simon Sing	Art Unit 2645	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6 and 8-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,8-11,13,14,16 and 18-20* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *12,15 and 17* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Porter US 5,963,618.

1.1 Regarding claim 1, Porter discloses a voice processing system in figure 5. Porter teaches a voice processing unit 520 (voicemail system component) comprising a temporary (first) voice mailbox for inviting a caller to leave a voicemail message (column 11, lines 12-19, 46-51), and sending the voicemail message to one of a plurality storage devices (voicemail systems 542, 544 and 546) through Internet 530 (column 11, lines 3-11, 47-67). The temporary voice mailbox comprises a database DB 525 having an address of a location of the one of a plurality storage device (column 11, 25-60), allowing a caller to access one of the plurality storage devices (column 14, lines 33-42). Porter further teaches redundancy of voice processing unit 520 (voice processing system) (second voicemail system component with a temporary (second) mailbox), or multiple voice processing units 520 (with multiple temporary (second) mailboxes) in different countries to provide access to voice mail through Internet (column 13, lines 65-

67; column 14, lines 1-6, 33-47). It is inherent that a second voice mailbox with the address added to the system when a second voice processing unit 520 is included.

1.2 Regarding claim 2, as discussed in claim 1, the voice processing unit 520 (voicemail system component) using the address to store or access a voicemail message (column 11, lines 25-43; column 14, lines 33-47).

1.3 Regarding claim 3, Porter teaches a plurality of voice processing units 520 (voicemail system components), and each storage device (VM 542-546) employs the address location of each voice processing unit 520 to identify the temporary (first and second) mailboxes (including DB 525) to update DB 525 (column 14, lines 54-57, 63-67). Porter further teaches that the temporary mailboxes correspond to the voicemail message stored in one of the plurality storage devices (column 14, lines 33-47).

1.4 Regarding claim 4, it is inherent that each voicemail system 542-546 is a file server (able to store or retrieve a voice data file). Porter also teaches using multiple voicemail system component units 520 to store or access a voicemail message (column 11, lines 25-43; column 14, lines 33-47).

1.5 Regarding claim 5, Porter teaches that though the voice processing unit 520, a user is able to access the voicemail message through Internet (column 14, lines 33-42).

It is inherent that once the voicemail message is accessed, it can be forwarded or deleted.

1.6 Regarding claim 6, Porter teaches that the voice processing unit 520 has a database for each subscriber, wherein each database has a pointer (mailbox number or voice mail address) pointing to each voicemail system 542-546 (column 11, lines 39-43, Table 1).

1.7 Regarding claim 8, it is inherent that when a voice message is recorded, the voice message is modified (adding a header). As discussed in claim 1, the address enables the voice processing unit 520 to transfer the voice message to one of a plurality of storage devices (VM 542-546) (column 11, lines 25-60).

1.8 Regarding claim 9, Porter teaches that the temporary mailbox comprises a database as discussed in claim 1. The database comprises link list to mailboxes in VM 542-546 (column 11, lines 39-43, Table 1), and the voice processing unit 520 (voicemail system component) employs the link list to access one of the plurality storage devices (VM 542-546) (column 11, lines 25-60).

1.9 Regarding claim 11, the plurality of storage devices (VM 542-546) inherently have linked lists to link a subscriber to his/her voicemails. The storage devices also link to each voice processing unit 520 to update database DB 525 in each temporary

voice mailbox (column 14, lines 54-57, 63-67), and each temporary (first and second) mailbox (including DB 525) is associated with one or more recipients (column 11, lines 25-47; column 14, lines 33-47).

1.10 Regarding claims 14 and 16, Porter discloses a voice messaging system in figure 5. Porter teaches a first voicemail component VM 542, which inherently comprises a first voice mailbox having a directory and a message storage area, for storing a voice message (column 11, lines 3-11); and a voice processing unit 520 (second voicemail component) comprising a second voice mailbox having a database 525 containing the directory of VM 542 and a voice message storage area (column 11, lines 3-11, 25-51). Porter further teaches copying the directory (voicemail address) from the first voice mailbox of VM 542 to the second voice mailbox of the voice processing unit 520 (column 14, lines 154-57, 63-67) to move an association with a user from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox. Porter also teaches that the VM 542 (first voicemail component) and the voice processing unit 520 (second voicemail component) are coupled with a storage device (VM 544, 546 or Email 550) through Internet 530.

1.11 Regarding claim 18, as discussed in claim 1, Porter teaches employing multiple voice processing units 520. Each voice processing unit 520 comprises a temporary mailbox having a database DB 525, and the database DB 525 is synchronized and comprises the directory of subscribers of the voice messaging systems 542-546 (column 11, lines 8-11; column 14, lines 54-67). It is inherent that a temporary mailbox

can move from address to address as stored in the database, whether the address is used on a second temporary mailbox or not.

1.12 Regarding claim 19, Porter teaches using multiple voice processing units 520 to promote efficiency and effectiveness of his system (column 13, lines 65-67; column 14, lines 1-6).

1.13 Regarding claim 20, Porter teaches forwarding a recorded voice message to a storage device (column 11, lines 47-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 13, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chau et al. US 5,751,792 in view of Shaffer et al. US 5,995,596 and further in view of Cannon US 6,519,327.

2.1 Regarding claims 1, 14 and 16, Chau discloses a system for providing a voicemail subscriber with roaming mailbox in figure 1. Chau teaches voicemail systems

components in Nodes A B and C (column 2, lines 24). The voicemail system components enable a caller to leave a voice message for the subscriber (column 3, lines 22-43), and the subscriber to retrieve a voice message (column 4, lines 9-31). Chau further teaches creating a roaming mailbox (second voice mailbox) at a remote node for the subscriber, and message data is transferred from a home mailbox (first voice mailbox) at a home node to the roaming mailbox, or vice versa (column 3, lines 66-67; column 4, lines 1-8). Chau also teaches that the home node has a voicemail system component 202 (figure 2) coupled to voicemail message storage device 260 over a data network 208.

Chau fails to specifically teach that the message data comprises a voice message' address and the data network 208 is Internet.

However, Shaffer discoses a voice messaging system in figure 1. Shaffer teaches creating voice mailboxes at different nodes for a user (column 3, lines 22-21), and once a voice message is recorded at one mailbox, a token comprising an identification of said one mailbox (voicemail address) is created, and the token then is transferred to other mailboxes so that the user will be able to retrieve voice messages from other mailboxes (column 3, lines 23-34).

Furthermore, Cannon teaches that voice messages are stored in a storage device 14 coupled a voicemail server 24 through Internet 18 (figure 1), so that voice messages are retrieve over Internet 18 (column 3, lines 33-47).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Chau's reference with the teaching of Shaffer

and Cannon, so that the message data would have comprised an address of a voicemail message, and the storage device 208 would have been coupled to the home mailbox and the roaming mailbox through Internet, because such a modification would have clarified Chau's teaching about message data, and coupling the storage device 260 to an Internet would have enable a roaming node to retrieve voice messages through Internet without occurring long distant charge.

2.2 Regarding claim 13, Chau's reference, modified by Shaffer and Cannon, teaches forwarding a voice message form the home mailbox (first voice mailbox) to the roaming mailbox (second voice mailbox) by coping an address (token) from the home mailbox to the roaming mailbox as discussed in claim 1.

3. Claims 10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter US 5,963,618 in view of Finnigan US 6,181,780.

Porter teaches using a database to access a voicemail message in a depository through Internet, but fails to teach that the database includes an encryption key.

However, Finnigan discloses a telephonic voice message store and forward system and method in figure 1, Finnigan teaches using privacy device to encrypt a voice message, including addresses (column 6, lines 6-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Porter's reference with the teaching of Finnigan

so that a voicemail message would have been encrypted and the database would have comprised a encryption key for encryption and de-encryption the voicemail message, because such a modification would have enhanced system security to protect the privacy of the voicemail subscriber.

Allowable Subject Matter

4.1 Claims 12, 15 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4.2 The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

a) Claim 12 discloses a storage device coupled to a first voice mailbox and a second voice mailbox through Internet. The storage device deletes a voicemail message once a reference of the voicemail message is deleted from the first voice mailbox and the second voice mailbox. Porter (US 5,963,618) fails to teach this deleting feature.

b) Claims 15 and 17 disclose a storage device coupled to a first voice mailbox and a second voice mailbox through Internet, and copying an address of a voicemail massage from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox. The copying step further comprise of changing a reference on the storage device a

correspondence of the voicemail message from the first voice mailbox to the second voice mailbox. Porter teaches copying an address from a first voice mailbox (VM542) to a second voice mailbox (voice processing unit 520 (VPU 520)) through Internet 530, but fails to teach that both VM 542 and VPU 520 are coupled through Internet to a storage device storing the voicemail message.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 8-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Simon Sing whose telephone number is (703) 305-3221. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached at (703) 305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4750.

S.S.

03/04/2004

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